

## THE ARGUS

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1918.

Republican and Democratic State Platforms both endorse the constitutional convention. Vote Yes.

## The Language We Might Have Spoken

American soldiers now quartered in Alsace-Lorraine, and who in a very short time have been able to acquire a fairly good knowledge of the French language, find that in these provinces it is of little use to them, for the reason that German is universally spoken. The explanation of this is that immediately after Germany came into possession in 1871, she commenced an attack upon the French language, and peremptorily suppressed it in all schools and colleges.

German was made the language of justice and administration, French being absolutely forbidden everywhere, the objection going to the extent of prohibiting parents giving their children French Christian names. Little French boys and girls caught using their native tongue at play were subjected to severe punishment.

It is little wonder that for this and many other indignities France has had an inveterate hatred of the Prussian.

But this action in Alsace is in direct keeping with the German plan. From the very beginning foreign languages have been detested by the Germans, and whenever he has had the power, he has not only purged foreign words from the German language, but gloried in being able to rid German soil of any foreign tongue.

The case of Posen—German Poland—is another notable instance. There the Polish language is banished from churches and schools. Polish women on marrying Germans, are forbidden to ever use their native tongue again, and the teaching of Polish to their children is a penal offense.

The postal authorities are forbidden to deliver a letter addressed in the Polish language and the inscription on the tombstone of a Pole dying in his native land must be in the hated language of the oppressor.

This is how the Kaiser keeps the fires of friendship burning between himself and the millions living in captured territory. One asks the question: What would have happened had this tyrant's dream of world power been realized? Surely one thing could be forecast and that, the world wide ascendancy of the German tongue. Happily for us all the Anglo-Saxon language is destined to supplant the German.

Great interest has been aroused in London by the suggestion that as a tribute to the work of W. H. Page during his residence as ambassador, the British people present to the American nation the house formerly occupied by the members of the German embassy; the same to be used by future American ambassadors, or as a "Page house" for any purpose the United States might determine.

The Bishop of London stated in the course of a sermon in St. Paul's cathedral, that since August 5, the day when, throughout the entire British empire the people were asked to unite in prayer for an allied triumph, there had not been a single reverse at the battle front. Is not this a commentary on the words of the poet, Tennyson: "There are more things wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." The people of Rock Island should not fail to loyally observe the noon-day momentary pause, to pray for the continued success of the allies and the consummation of a righteous and enduring peace.

## Germany's So-called Religion.

Foremost among the causes that have contributed to the certain downfall of Germany must be mentioned her forgetfulness of God. The God with whom the Kaiser claims association, when he made the statement: "I look upon the people and nation handed on to me as a responsibility conferred upon me by God, and that it is, as written in the Bible, my duty to increase this heritage, for which one day I shall be called upon to account. Those who try to interfere with my task I shall crush!"—is certainly not the God as worshipped by Christian people today.

How great will be Germany's failure can only be fully determined at the close of the war. We now know that the ruin will be so complete as to make it a question whether she can ever take her place again with the civilized and self-respecting governments again.

Few people have ever realized how prevalent atheism and open infidelity were in Germany; the writings of her scholars and the attitude of her statesman and even the teachings from many of her pulpits reveal a nation whose one idol was self. Their leading philosopher, Nietzsche, expressed the thought of the so-called upper classes when he said: "I hold Christianity with its superstitions as the

greatest hindrance to progress." German brutality grew out of this philosophy.

Germany for years has been so dominated by the spirit of selfishness that a dream of world power led to her eagerness to crush any nation or nations that stood in her way or whom she thought was trying to frustrate her unholy purposes. German unbelief, conceit, and pride, are responsible for her sure and certain downfall.

Of the great universities of the allies whose students have so nobly responded to the call of their countries for military service, Cambridge university has probably suffered the heaviest losses of the 14,840 students who joined the British forces; 2,382 have been killed, 3,154 have fallen wounded, and 472 are prisoners.

## A Noble Purpose.

With a little help from the Jews resident in England, the 3,000,000 Jews of the United States, propose to aid the Jews of Russia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Roumania and Palestine, to rebuild their fortunes following the close of the war. The amount of money needed is estimated at \$1,000,000,000 and this sum American Jews are planning to raise. Felix M. Warburg is said to have resigned from the federal reserve board in part that he might direct this great work. Indeed the plan is said to owe its inception to Mr. Warburg. The money is to be secured not by gift, but after the manner of Liberty loans, and as much of it as possible without the guarantee of interest. The Jews behind this project favor the Zionist plan, but this big rebuilding fund of the Judaism of the world is not to create a political state in Palestine. It is to rebuild Jewish homes and industries, wherever they may be.

It is estimated that 6,000,000 Jews of Europe have suffered by this war, their homes having been ruined and occupations cut off. It is to give them new opportunities in life that American Jews now make this appeal.

The sum is said to be larger than any ever raised for strictly humanitarian purposes and no doubt whatever exists in the minds of the promoters, that the amount and more will be secured.

London is to have an office, but New York is to be the headquarters. Investigators are already at work.

The Marconi Wireless company announces that direct wireless communication has been established between Carnarvon, North Wales, and Australia, a distance of over twelve thousand miles; this, they add, is the greatest triumph of wireless yet accomplished.

A member of the Prussian house of peers is reported to have said that Germany's peace aims were embodied in two words: "Our skin."

## Passing Years Bring New Needs.

It is no reflection on the men who framed the constitution of Illinois back in 1870 to say that the constitution now needs some revision. Their work was done nearly fifty years ago and Illinois has changed from a state of 2,500,000 population to one of 6,200,000. Conditions of living and the methods of doing business are so very different that certain changes are highly advisable. This is the principal reason, no doubt, that there is such a unanimity of opinion about the proposed constitutional convention. The Democratic and Republican parties have endorsed the convention plan in their state conventions. Governor Lowden, ex-Governor Dunne, judges of the supreme court and lower court, state officials, lawyers, bankers, business and professional men up and down the state have given their approval to the plan. The fact is that all citizens who have given the subject thought realize that changing conditions strongly suggest a change in the constitution on which the business and general relationships of this commonwealth are based.

The Kaiser speaks of Alsace-Lorraine as the provinces "belonging to us and which the Almighty has entrusted to us to administer as his stewards." One wonders whether the German autocrat recalls the injunction of holy writ to the effect: "It is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

## With Other Editors

## No Excuse For High Prices.

Perhaps it is too much to expect of human nature to refuse to make money when it is so easy to do so. This suggests thoughts on the high prices of milk and of butter, cheese and eggs, and, incidentally, on the inevitable working of the law of supply and demand and the unsound doctrine of price-fixing. These dairy products have been undergoing a period of inflation that has brought joy to the farmers and woe to the consumers. The farmers, the shippers, and, in fact, all who have had a hand in the distribution of these commodities, except those whose profits are rigidly regulated, have, to a mere onlooker, been profiteering. They may have been within the law, but they have been "putting it over" just the same. Patriotism with them is like their religion—something not to be mixed with business.

The foundation upon which these high prices are supposed to be reared is the high cost of feed, whereas, as a matter of fact, feed is cheap. Even corn is 50 cents a bushel, cheaper than it was during the summer, for the new corn crop ranks among the largest, and on the basis of quality is actually much larger than the record crop of last year. Barley is a large crop and as it cannot be used for malting there is all the more for feed. By government edict mill-feed is cheap in order to facilitate the milling of flour. Hence, why the high price of milk and of butter, cheese and eggs?—New York Journal of Commerce.

## OLD HALLOWE'EN STUFF AGAIN.



## Health Talks

By Dr. William Brady, M. D.

## Industrial Hygiene XVIII.—T. N. T. Poisoning.

Trinitrotoluol is used in the manufacture of explosives.

Workers handling this chemical are supposed to wear rubber gloves to guard against absorption through the lymphatics. Sometimes the employer fails to provide rubber gloves, and gloves have proved of doubtful value anyway.

A munition worker 27 years old and exceptionally vigorous and well developed was employed in the chlorin shed, where phosphorus trichloride was mixed in a bottle with toluol and emptied into a tank through which chlorin gas was passed. Masks were provided to protect against leakage of chlorin gas, but the masks, according to the worker, were seldom worn by men exposed, because they fail to give much protection.

He first began to vomit at frequent intervals, without much nausea. He also had sharp stabbing abdominal pains and occasionally slight bleeding from the bowel. Then he began to suffer with severe headache of a throbbing character, such as workers in nitroglycerin or dynamite plants have. The headaches were accompanied by dizziness and some failure of eyesight. His skin and the whites of his eyes assumed a yellowish tint resembling jaundice. And finally he developed an irritating cough with expectoration giving off an odor of chlorin, an odor like strong chloride of lime.

The man stuck to his job for five

months, but finally had to give up and enter the hospital.

His chief complaints were distress about the heart, difficult breathing, irritating cough, headache and failing eyesight. He has lost much weight and is very weak.

The cough, caused by a bronchitis of the finest capillary bronchial tubes, is due to the chlorin poisoning. The other symptoms are more dependent on the trinitrotoluene poisoning. This trinitrotoluene poisoning is about the same in effect as anilin poisoning in general. Anilin is derived from coal tar, and from it are produced a vast number of chemicals and drugs and dyes. Acetanilide, the pain-killer dose in most alleged cold cures, gripe cures and headache medicines, is such a product. Acetanilide poisoning is similar to trinitrotoluene poisoning.

The outlook in any case of coal tar poisoning depends on two factors: first, the length of time the poisoning has been going on, and second, the victim's ability or willingness to change his occupation or habit, as the case may be. Unfortunately thousands of shallow-minded persons indulge in acetanilide or phenacetin or other poisonous coal tar medicines about as lightly as you and I would take a hot sundae, and, worse still, many unscrupulous druggists encourage such habits.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Cough Medicine.

Some time ago you gave a formula for a harmless cough medicine. Would you mind repeating the formula for the benefit of several readers?

Answer—

Glycerine.....1 ounce

Fluoride of calcium.....1 ounce

Fluoride of boron.....1 ounce

Fluoride of strontium.....1 ounce

Fluoride of barium.....1 ounce

Fluoride of calcium.....1 ounce

Fluoride of boron.....1 ounce

Fluoride of strontium.....1 ounce

Fluoride of barium.....1 ounce

Fluoride of calcium.....1 ounce

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